

News Release

Sorte Joins University of Minnesota Crookston Faculty and Extension Service

By Elizabeth Tollefson, Kathryn Webster on Thursday, July 26, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (July 27, 2007) – The University of Minnesota, Crookston and the University of Minnesota Extension Office recently hired Bruce Sorte as a Regional Extension Educator in community economics and faculty member in the U of M, Crookston Business Department. Sorte spends the majority of his time as an Extension assistant professor working with communities in Northwest Minnesota on economic issues and teaching courses like microeconomics and natural resource economics. His most popular presentation for service clubs has been; “What will happen next, and how can your community get ready.”



Sorte is also leading a research project on the economic impacts of fairs and festivals in Northwest Minnesota. The research is funded with grants from the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) . In more rural areas, economies are stressed and population may be declining. This research is designed to help the participating counties reverse those trends. Two student interns from the U of M, Crookston, Marybeth Eckstrom, Blackduck, Minn., and Ken Armstrong, Fisher, Minn., are helping with the research and final analyses.

The counties that are participating in the research are Clay, Marshall, Polk and Clearwater, whereas the festivals participating are Ox Cart Days in Crookston and the Goose Festival in Middle River, Minn. Along with the grants, each event is contributing financially to the research, as well.

Sorte earned his bachelors of science degree in economics in 1973 and his interdisciplinary masters degree in agriculture economics, economics and political science in 2002 from Oregon State University. Most recently, he worked at Oregon State University, where his positions included contract administrator, business manager, community economist and instructor teaching classes with as many as 250 students. He has held elected offices on the Corvallis city council and served as president of the Oregon State University faculty senate.

Sorte traces his roots in the U.S. back to Minnesota. His ancestors settled in Minnesota when they arrived from Norway and a number of his relatives, including his father and grandfather earned degrees from the University of Minnesota.

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